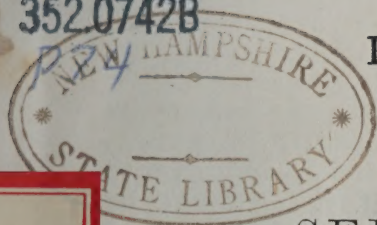


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REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF PLYMOUTH,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1866.

CONCORD:

PRINTED BY MCFARLAND & JENKS.

1866.

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REPORT

OF THE

SIXTH

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMISSION

OF THE

TOWN OF PLYMOUTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1890

COMPOSED

PRINTED BY W. H. BARNES & SONS

1890

REPORT.

*The Selectmen in account with the Town of Plymouth, for the
year 1865.*

To the assessments of State, County, Town, and School			
taxes on residents,		\$11,729.84	
The assessments of State, County, Town and School			
taxes on nonresidents,		109.90	
Samuel H. Palmer, tax not in the warrant,		8.20	
Charles Green,		17.70	
Cash of Rumney, for Hanscom child,		6.00	
Cash of the Selectmen for the year 1864,		210.71	
Mar.	18.	Cash of Wm. W. Cox, note,	100.00
		Thomas Shute, note,	1,475.35
	29.	Asa P. French, note,	220.00
		J. H. Johnson, on State note,	500.00
April	1.	B. F. Cox, note,	75.00
		Harriet S. Ward, note,	1,160.00
		Mary A. Wells, note,	150.00
		George Reed, on State note,	400.00
	10.	Job. E. Kimball, note,	50.00
	14.	D. F. Cummings, note,	50.00
	22.	Wm. W. Cox,	100.00
	24.	Thomas Shute, note,	350.00
May	1.	Almira R. Merrill, note,	200.00
	12.	S. Sanborn, liquor agent,	50.00
		Sarah G. Coffin, note,	700.00
	18.	County, for support of paupers off farm,	245.84
	13.	Wm. Currier, note,	300.00
	26.	Washington George, note,	206.80
		Hannah Weed, note,	26.00
June	3.	Sarah B. Dearborn, note,	23.90
	8.	Samuel A. Burns, note,	323.33
	18.	Galen Eastman, note,	35.00
		Ward & McQueston, for town house,	179.00

Sept. 14.	Lucy Stearns, note,	172.00
Nov.	Robert Burns, on State note,	1,256.00
Dec. 2.	Wm. W. Cox, note,	133.00
5.	Aldin S. Clifford, note,	700.00
1866.		
Jan. 1.	Hannah Ward,	50.00
4.	State, for literary fund,	27.50
	State aid,	2,247.00
	Savings bank tax,	22.20
	Railroad tax,	841.83
	Cash on bonds sold before January 1, 1866,	18,350.00
	Cash on bonds sold after January 1, 1866,	1,035.00
	Cash for interest on bonds sold,	99.44
	Bonds not sold March 1, 1866, not including No.	
	70 of the \$100 denomination,	10,400.00
	Cash and abatements, 1861,	54.25
	Cash and abatements, 1863,	75.69
	Cash and abatements, 1864,	358.56
	Cash from town farm,	45.34
	J. Boynton, note,	9.93
	Freeman Cook's note,	7.00
		<hr/>
		\$54,887.61

State Aid to Families of Volunteers.

Paid Charles E. Wedgwood's Family,	11.00
Calvin A. Lewis'	88.00
James Dailey's	12.00
Abner C. Jones'	36.80
John L. Baker's	84.00
George W. Ellis'	31.20
Timothy E. Bailey's	60.00
Robert W. Haney's	40.00
Lewis Mitchell's	51.00
Artemas W. Merrill's	43.00
David P. Moses'	33.00
Perley Hardy's	60.00
Asa P. French's	10.00
Benjamin F. Smith's	54.40
Henry G. Coffin's	42.00
Charles E. Sanborn's	30.80

Paid Simeon Eastman's family,	46.80
Hiram C. Philbrick's	32.00
Galen Eastman's	14.00
George W. Lovejoy's	34.00
George W. Worthen's	16.00
A. J. Pervere's	48.00
Michael Sullivan's	24.00
Pliny R. Gilman's	56.00

Sundry Bills.

Paid for the support of Lydia Church,	72.00
for the support of Nathan Smith and wife,	82.88
McFarland & Jenks, printing report,	40.00
Liquor license,	29.17
George Reed, on note,	403.00
B. W. Sanborn, & Co.,	8.00
Russell & Webster,	1.63
Thomas Shute, on note,	1,475.33
Charles H. Spencer, on note,	105.69
Nancy Barber, on note,	90.00
Hiram W. Gove, on note,	103.25
Harriet S. Ward, on notes,	1,079.61
J. C. Smith, on note,	208.00
D. F. Cummings,	54.00
N. H. Asylum, for insane paupers,	368.57
Henry A. Hazen, Supt. School Committee,	18.00
A. J. Morgan, on note,	106.24
I. Ellis, for support of M. Hanscomb child,	6.00
J. Clark, on execution on Smith note,	15.00
John L. Blake, on note,	10.00
John L. Blake, on note,	20.00
Express on report and money,	.50
Henry G. Coffin, balance of bounty,	724.50
Charles E. Sanborn, on note,	350.00
Charles E. Sanborn, on note,	50.00
Asa P. French, on note,	20.00
Register of deeds in Blake case,	1.50
William Leverett, on note,	140.98
Sarah B. Dearborn, on note,	54.07
Mason & Fox, for Randall,	29.19
Express on bonds,	.25
Washington George, on notes,	4,006.80

Paid Hannah Weed, on note,	235.98
Mary A. Wells, on notes,	670.25
Aaron Currier, on notes,	394.09
Louisa Martin, on notes,	132.43
Sophrana Sanborn, on notes,	641.62
James Currier, on note,	99.65
Sally Cummings, on note,	159.63
William Gould, for water trough,	3.00
Frank Chase, for board,	15.00
Sally L. Perkins, on note,	307.60
Lemuel Palmer, on note,	263.15
J. S. Ryan, on note,	1,597.97
J. H. Gill, on note,	105.00
Sarah B. Dearborn, on note,	173.90
D. F. Cummings, on note,	151.46
Charles W. Cummings, on note,	204.66
Seth Dotan, on note,	116.75
N. C. Cummings, on note,	204.26
William Webster, on note,	62.62
James F. Langdon, on notes,	377.95
Hiram Cross, on notes,	550.09
Eliza Penniman, on note,	102.00
S. A. Burns, on note,	1,823.33
Mary Emerson, on note,	148.59
Mary A. Hazeltine, on note,	456.40
Simeon Moulton, on note,	255.71
Esther Merrill, on note,	57.15
Samuel George, on note,	408.80
Lavina Pike, on note,	408.50
J. L. Baker, on note,	32.94
Almira R. Merrill, on note,	400.00
E. Ferrin, for breaking roads,	9.89
B. W. Sanborn & Co., for invoice book,	10.00
J. J. Nutting, for labor on highway,	4.50
D. H. Currier, two journeys to Concord and expense,	18.05
Frank Chase, for board,	2.25
Nancy Howe, on note,	99.15
Aaron Eastman, on note,	40.16
Asa P. French, on note,	197.16
Express on money to Concord,	.25
Phineous Russell, breaking roads in 1864 and 1865,	17.00
M. R. M. Mitchell, on note,	55.51

Paid Warren C. Heath, on note,	200.90
Job E. Kimball, on note,	51.15
G. W. Ellis, on note,	814.66
H. N. Blair's estate, taxes refunded,	5.65
Sally L. Perkins, on note,	75.00
John C. Clark, on note,	237.64
Ruth Avery, interest on note,	48.00
Washington,	210.93
Kimball C. Corliss, on note,	136.12
D. R. Burnham, on note,	1,043.66
Samuel A. Burns, on note,	329.53
Town of Bridgewater, for Mrs. Blake,	200.00
Insurance on farm buildings,	5.95
Express on money to Concord,	.25
Alva M. Draper, work on highway,	6.20
James Currier, digging grave,	1.00
H. L. Kelsea, attending funeral,	1.00
E. W. Ordway, police at fair,	4.50
George H. Cummings, on note,	238.31
Robert Burns, on note,	1,205.30
Thomas P. Clifford,	654.84
James L. Rogers, for powder,	69.33
B. F. Smith, on note,	157.90
Edward Coffee, on note,	1,327.14
Ethan O. Harris, on note,	288.59
James McQuestion, on note,	241.40
B. F. Smith, on note,	24.14
Hannah Weed, on note,	26.95
Smith Morgan, plank for highway,	7.07
McFarland & Jenks, for printing bonds,	30.00
Russell & Webster, for F. Smith's family,	19.18
Moses Pervere, plank for highway,	7.20
H. S. Palmer, police at fair,	6.00
Charles E. Sanborn, on note,	395.41
Express on money,	.50
Robert Mitchell, on note,	293.00
T. J. Adams, on note,	814.87
S. Blodgett, on note,	182.60
J. Clark, on note,	1,200.79
J. Clark, cost on note,	21.75
Gilman Houston, police at fair,	6.00
D. H. Currier, expense to Manchester,	7.50

Paid Mason & Fox, for pauper,	5.00
D. H. Currier, for pauper,	3.00
Mason & Fox, for Crawford child,	9.09
Samuel Currier, for watering trough,	3.00
F. W. A. Robie, rent for Mrs. Smith,	3.34
F. W. A. Robie, for warming meeting house,	1.50
Transcient pauper,	1.00
Otis Young, for winter road,	3.00
D. R. Bartlett, for Mrs. Adams,	10.11
E. E. Merrill, for plank,	22.40
Russell, Bill & Co., for Mrs. Adams,	5.50
Nathaniel Batchelder, on note,	1,135.90
Coupons on bonds,	2,799.51
Postage and revenue stamps,	3.50
Envelopes and stationery,	1.00
George Lovejoy, for Crawford child,	7.00
Bonds on hand March 1, 1866, with 10 per cent off, not including No. 70 of \$100 denomination,	9,360.00
Ten per cent cut off, on bonds on hand,	1,040.00
State tax,	2,565.00
County tax,	954.06
Express on the same,	.75
Dr. Preston, for Charles Gould,	21.00
Dr. Preston, for Crawford child,	8.75
Dr. Preston, widow Lovejoy,	2.50
S. N. Rowe, on note,	474.80
S. N. Rowe, police at fair,	6.00
Alvin Burley, police at fair,	6.00
S. N. Rowe, collector,	80.00
J. H. Wilkinson, work on Pike road,	5.20
W. George, on note,	32.73
“ for plank,	3.45
W. George & J. A. Drake, appraisers at poor farm,	3.00
J. A. Drake, police at fair,	6.00
Ward & McQueston, digging grave,	2.00
J. S. Tufts, for Thomas Randall,	76.00
S. N. Rowe, printing tax bill,	3.00
Robert Cochran, watering trough,	3.00
A. K. George, bridge plank,	.92
David George, watering trough,	4.00
I. M. Merrill, coffin and robe,	12.00
Calvin Clark, plank,	82.05

Paid Amos Clark, work on highway,	1.44
H. C. Homans, timber for highway,	2.00
Cyrus Corliss, watering trough,	2.00
C. C. & F. J. Moulton, nonresident highway tax,	7.00
Daniel Batchelder, " "	1.00
Several school districts, excepting Nos. 10 and 11,	668.89

Abatements for 1861.

Paid A. L. Brooks,	\$2.58
Henry Cummings,	2.06
Chase H. Clifford,	2.06
Josiah Chapman,	2.06
Tappan W. Craig,	2.06
Francis M. Drake,	2.06
Simeon Eastman,	2.06
Gilmore McL. Houston,	2.06
Smith H. Rowe,	1.35
Sextus H. Rankins,	2.94
John Shehan,	6.07
Charles E. Stearns,	2.06
Alonzo K. York,	2.06
A. L. Brown,	.86

Abatements for 1863.

Paid H. N. Blair,	7.80
Abner Buzzell,	2.93
Charles H. Clifford,	2.34
John C. Clark,	2.34
Peter Donovan,	2.60
David Gould,	2.34
William Hardy,	5.17
Eben Hardy,	2.34
James A. Penniman,	2.34
Simeon Walker,	2.34
Hiram Wescott,	2.34
Joseph C. Hayes,	2.34

Abatements for 1864.

Paid H. N. Blair,	15.83
H. G. O. Burrows,	3.60
Jeremiah Benton,	3.60
John Clement,	3.60

Paid Chase F. Clifford,	3.60
Charles H. Clifford,	3.60
Bartlett Cone,	3.60
Daniel Chase,	3.60
Abner Frost,	3.75
David Gould,	3.60
Hiram Hobart,	3.60
William Hardy,	8.01
John Jenkins,	3.60
J. A. Jenkins,	3.60
Deborah Keniston,	7.50
John Loud,	7.30
C. A. Lewis,	1.02
J. M. Merrill,	3.60
D. P. Moses,	3.60
Moses Pike,	2.00
Sherburne Pearsons,	4.05
Alonzo Sevens,	3.60
E. M. Stetson,	3.60
Simeon Sanborn, over age,	3.60
Town Farm,	15.45
J. S. Wikerson,	3.60
Hiram Wescott,	3.60
John Whiteman,	1.35
C. H. Webster,	3.60
Andrew Cilley, school-house tax,	.72
Hiram Wescott, " "	.40
Edward Barnard, " "	.33
John Stewart,	3.60
J. C. Cayes,	3.60
Russell, Bill & Co., for stationery,	.84
William H. Palmer, work on highway,	7.00
George A. Draper, services as town clerk,	31.33
D. H. Currier, " selectman,	75.00
Washington George, " "	61.68
J. A. Drake, " "	51.00
D. H. Currier, " treasurer,	50.00
W. George, butter for Mrs. Adams,	.50
J. H. Melvin, winter road,	8.00
Sally L. Perkins, on note,	55.88

Abatements for 1865.

Cordelia Adams,	4.98
Samuel Binford,	8.40
John Clark,	7.20
C. P. Eaton,	7.20
R. M. Merrill,	7.20
C. D. Penniman,	7.20
Widow James Stearns,	4.50
John Stewart,	7.20
Town farm,	31.02
David Webster,	7.20
James S. Wilkerson,	7.20
Josiah Quincy, error,	4.90
D. H. Currier, on note,	244.86
J. Boynton, note in selectmen's hands,	9.93
Freeman Cook, note in selectmen's hands,	7.00
C. K. Kelley, for Mrs. Crawford,	13.00
B. F. Gould, watering trough,	3.00
D. H. Currier, services as overseer of the poor,	10.00
Frank Chase, board,	4.50
Seth Doten and Arthur Ward, auditors,	4.00
Taxes in collector's hands,	1,524.56
Cash in selectmen's hands,	796.60

\$54,887.61

Respectfully submitted,

D. H. CURRIER,	} <i>Selectmen</i>
WASHINGTON GEORGE,	
JOHN A. DRAKE,	
	} <i>of</i>
	} <i>Plymouth.</i>

We have examined the accounts of the selectmen for the year 1865-6, and find them correctly cast and properly vouched.

ARTHUR WARD,	} <i>Auditors.</i>
SETH DOTON,	

Account of the Overseer of the Poor.

Received of Jonathan Clay, balance account,	\$.25
J. A. Drake, for peas,	.75
G. Elliott, for dinner and oats,	.33
D. F. Hall, for butter,	.22
D. F. Hall, for pork,	2.94
D. F. Hall, for soap-grease,	1.15
D. F. Hall, for pig,	4.00
D. F. Hall, for pork,	4.03
D. F. Hall, for cheese,	1.57
J. H. Wilkerson, for hay,	5.00
Mrs. Lovejoy, for cheese,	.25
T. P. Clifford, for hay,	3.37
Ira Jenkins, for oats,	3.00
Ira Jenkins, for work,	6.00
Ira Jenkins, for board,	2.10
Ira Jenkins, for account,	13.78
Mrs. Moses Adams, for pig,	4.00
Henry Adams, do	4.00
Wm. D. Blodgett, do	4.00
John M. Hill, two pigs,	7.00
John M. Hill, for oats,	.20
Robert Cochran, cider,	1.33
T. J. Adams, calf-skin,	1.27
T. J. Adams, veal,	1.43
Wm. A. Draper, for pig,	4.00
John Buchanan, for eggs,	.25
John Buchanan, for cider,	.30
Quincy French, for sugar,	.35
J. A. Drake, for vinegar,	2.67
G. A. Gould, for board,	9.00
Russell, Bill & Co., for oats,	3.84
J. T. Cutter, do	27.68
J. T. Cutter, for work,	.10
E. T. Bailey, for straw,	11.46
I. D. Safford, for use of oxen,	5.00
H. B. Mitchell, for ham,	10.54
School district, for dipper,	.10
John Boynton, note for hay,	9.93
C. H. Draper, do do	6.00
Jonathan Ferrin, for potatoes,	5.20
Jonathan Ferrin, for veal,	2.09

Received of Jonathan Ferrin, to balance account,	.79
Jonathan Clay, for beans and peas,	2.12
Jonathan Clay, for rennet and beef,	1.13
A. J. Morgan, for butter,	.41
Mrs. Adams, for cheese,	.10
County, for support of paupers,	245.84
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	\$420.87

Paid Jonathan Ferrin, for work,	5.25
Jonathan Ferrin, for use of bull and plow,	1.25
Jonathan Clay, for work,	3.34
Jonathan Clay, dress for Emma Smith,	.84
Jonathan Clay, on account,	.93
Mason & Fox, rope,	.17
Joseph Cayes, use of board,	.75
Russell & Webster, slippery elm,	.17
Russell & Webster, plow point and flax end,	1.00
J. J. Nutting, use of plow,	.75
For articles bought at Stearns' auction,	5.36
One bottle essence,	.20
Alcohol,	.75
D. F. Hall, work in haying,	22.50
S. Palmer, for beef,	.55
Andrew Smith, threshing oats,	5.00
C. W. Gould, cash,	8.00
F. Sanborn, for rennet,	.42
Henry Green, blacksmith's bill,	.15
John A. Drake, for work,	.67
Russell, Bill & Co.,	.16
Jonathan French, auction bill,	.54
N. F. Draper, balance of account,	51.57
Pressey, for mending tin,	.15
Manson Brown, blacksmith's bill,	2.25
H. W. Adams, fixing saw and box,	1.88
C. H. Draper, for work,	1.00
A. J. Hall and wife, for service on farm,	250.00
Town Treasurer, cash,	45.34
J. Boynton, note,	9.93

Respectfully submitted,	\$420.87
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D. H. CURRIER,	} Overseers.
WASHINGTON GEORGE,	
JOHN A. DRAKE,	

Schedule of Stock and Provisions on Town Farm, March 1, 1866.

1	yoke oxen,	\$175.00
5	cows,	200.00
2	three years old cattle,	75.00
4	two do	80.00
1	one do	8.00
2	shots,	50.00
15	hens,	7.50
12	tons hay,	144.00
75	bush. corn,	93.00
15	bush. oats,	9.00
8	bush. beans,	16.00
1	bush. peas,	1.00
110	bush. potatoes,	44.00
1	bush. salt,	1.00
90	lbs. hams and shoulders,	14.00
131	lbs. beef,	10.00
300	lbs. pork,	66.00
21	lbs. candles,	3.50
59	lbs. sugar,	9.00
50	lbs. dried apple,	8.00
19	lbs. butter,	5.70
68	lbs. cheese,	12.00
43	lbs. lard,	8.00
40	lbs. flour,	2.75
18	gals. vinegar,	5.00
2	gals. boiled cider,	1.00
2	bbls. cider,	10.00
1½	bbls. soap,	7.00
½	box fine salt,	.25
2	qts. oil,	.50
	Groceries,	3.34

 \$1,069.54

WASHINGTON GEORGE, }
 JOHN A. DRAKE, } *Appraisers.*

Report of Liquor Agent for the Year ending March 1, 1866.

Received cash on hand, March 1, 1865,	\$55.35
do for liquor sold,	1,499.92
do for casks sold,	13.75
	<hr/>
	\$1,569.02
Paid cash for liquors,	\$1,368.38
do freight and trucking,	34.46
do town treasurer,	50.00
do agent, for services,	52.00
Paid cash in agent's hands, March 1, 1866,	64.18
	<hr/>
	\$1,569.02
Estimated value of liquor and casks on hand, March 1, 1866,	\$182.50

SIMEON SANBORN, *Agent*.*Indebtedness of the Town, March 1, 1866.*

Notes and interest to April 1st, 1866,	\$19,364.85
Bonds do do	17,813.25
Literary fund, now due schools,	27.50
Railroad tax, do	60.00
Outstanding coupons on bonds,	153.00
	<hr/>
	\$37,418.60

Means of paying the same.

Cash in selectmen's hands,	\$796.60
Available in hands of collector,	1,424.56
Due from State, for State aid,	342.90
Due on John Boynton's note,	9.93
Due on Freeman Cook's note,	7.00
Due from State, for bounty advanced,	2,000.00
Due from United States, bounty advanced,	2,954.00
	<hr/>
	\$7,534.99
Balance against the town,	\$29,883.61

SCHOOL REPORT.

To the Selectmen of Plymouth, N. H.

In accordance with the requirements of the law, I submit my Report as Superintending School Committee of the town for the past year. The following table exhibits in detail the principal items respecting each district.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

Number of District.	Prudential Committee.	Term of School, Summer and Winter.	Names of Teachers.	Length of School, Weeks.	Wages per month.	Public Money paid to.	Whole number of scholars.	Average attendance.	Pupils more than 16 years of age.	Tardy marks.	Dismissals.	Pupils not absent one half day.
1..	HARVEY ROGERS.	1	Jennie Chamberlain.	8	\$14.00	\$67.78	34	25	1	93	65	0
		2	Seth W. Kelley.	5	35.00		32	28	6	93	70	4
2..	JOSEPH CLARK.	1	Mary E. Langdon.	10	24.00		32	24	0	112	32	1
		2	Mrs. Rockwood Merrill.	7	32.00	264.50	30	27	1	50	36	1
		1	A. Melissa Gordon.	10	24.00		24	16	1	48	70	2
3..	WILLIAM WEBSTER.	2	Abbie A. Wadleigh.	6	32.00		31	27	9	383	15	3
		1	Mary E. Clark.	8	16.00	81.72	27	24	0	23	24	4
4..	A. J. HALL.	2	Mary E. Clark.	7	22.00		38	32	7	39	24	4
		1	Martha A. Clark.	8	20.00	19.73	27	22	0	56	12	1
5..	JONATHAN CLAY.	1	Augusta Shute.	6	16.00	20.05	19	18	3	28	12	1
		2	M. Addie Preston.	5	16.00		18	14	3	88	6	4
6..	WILLIAM HALL.	1	M. Aleesta Homans.	6	18.00		25	23	1	22	19	9
		2	A. Melissa Gordon.	5	22.00	62.30	32	23	6	18	16	16
7..	SETH GLOVER.	1	Clara L. Smith.	11	20.00		17	14	3	6	5	0
8..	J. A. DRAKE.	1	Mrs. Ruth A. Bloodgett.	5	18.00	7.20	25	20	1	37	3	10
		2	Ellen E. Hardy.	6	27.00	37.00	22	19	2	6	4	7
9..	A. J. MORGAN.	1	Annie E. Gilman.	8	20.00	43.87	28	23	4	33	7	2
		2	Martha A. Clark.	10	16.00		26	22	3	81	31	3
12..	ANSON MERRILL.	1	Martha A. Clark.	8	20.00	56.98	18	16	1	16	5	10
		2		3								
TOTAL, OR AVERAGE.....				12	\$21.00		373	22	46	1217	410	92

In two of the Districts, Nos. 10 & 11, no school has been kept. As neither of them has a school-house, or any prospect of being able to maintain useful schools, I recommend that the town take measures for uniting them as may be expedient with the adjoining districts.

In all the remaining districts schools have been kept; in three of them for a single term only, and their work has been done with as much efficiency as could be expected, in view of the various unfavorable circumstances, which have surrounded them.

The average amount of schooling in these ten districts for the year has been only twelve weeks. Only one male teacher has been employed. The average wages of the females employed has been \$21 per month. In this estimate I have added \$8 per month for board where that was not included in the wages. I add brief notes of the several districts, but shall not attempt to speak of each school, where no features are specially note-worthy.

Number 1. This school-house is very poor, and wholly unfit for school use. A district as able as this to have a better, should not permit another season to pass without providing it. The Winter term was very short, and the first in which this teacher has taught. Commendable progress was made, and enough to show that Mr. Kelley has the elements of a superior teacher.

Number 2. This school, in both departments, has shown improvement. It suffers much from irregularity of attendance and from the tardiness of pupils. The figures in the table show that this is a serious evil. It betrays a want of care and interest on the part of parents, which is very strange, and from which their children and the school suffer greatly. No faithful parent will permit a child to be often absent, or late in coming to school. These teachers have all been earnest and faithful, and with different degrees of success deserve favorable mention.

Number 3. This District has had the wisdom, having found a good teacher, to employ her a second term; and their reward is found in the decided progress and improved condition of the school.

Number 4. House unfit for school use. This District and No. 12 have employed the same teacher, and she has proved herself worthy of their confidence by her fidelity and success in both. There has been but a single term of school; and if the whole time in the year must be so limited, this is wiser than to divide it into two sessions.

Number 5. The Committee was unable to visit this school during either of its short terms, more than once. He cannot speak with the same confidence, therefore, of the progress made. They appeared well, however, and he has no reason to doubt that they were successful. This school-house is no better than No. 4.

Number 6. This house is newer and better in its design, but it lacks the care and improvement which it needs, to make it and keep it a good house. The average attendance of scholars was better in this district than in most others. No other shows so many not absent through the term. During the short winter term the Committee observed with regret an unjust and unworthy temper pervading the minds of a portion of the pupils, which seriously impaired the influence and success of the school.

Number 7. Here, in a very poor school-house, was a very good school. The reading was better than in any I have visited in town, and the recitations in Arithmetic were excellent. An air of studiousness and good order marked the school, which did not betray symptoms of being put on for an occasion.

Number 8. This house is scarcely better than its neighbors. The summer term I only saw on the first day. It opened well, and, I have no doubt, made good progress. The winter term deserves especial mention, and I do no injustice to other schools or teachers in saying that this was the best school in town. In good order, quiet, studiousness, and progress, it was distinguished. The teacher understands her work thoroughly, and is alert, quiet, and effective in the discharge of her duties.

Number 9. This house is comparatively new and good. Somewhat more attentive care and a little effort for adorning it, and the grounds, would make it still more assuredly the best in town. The single term of this school was not all that could be desired. The teacher was faithful, but she lacks somewhat the tact and energy necessary to real success in her calling.

Number 12. Of this teacher I have already spoken under No. 4. Her school was good and made progress. The house is like most of the others in town, and should be tolerated no longer than is necessary.

We may observe, with satisfaction, that no school has been a failure. And if we have not had good schools, it has not been for want of good teachers. The degree of merit of course has varied; but all have been faithful; most have been quite successful, and some have shown very superior excellence. We can lay no large share of the defects of our schools at the door of our teachers.

The diminished length of our schools calls for immediate attention and effective measures. The Literary Fund, derived in past years from a tax on the Banks, is lost by the change to a National Banking system. The State should at once see that in some way the loss is made good to the schools. We can not, as a people, afford to take the long step backwards which such a curtailment of our schools must involve. It is no time for New-Hampshire to lower its educational standard for the masses. The times demand higher intelligence and the more general diffusion of

knowledge among all classes. We can hold our own, in the rapid strides of our country onward, only by the extent and thoroughness of our culture as a people. In agriculture we can not compete with the richer West and South, and our manufacturing preëminence will soon be on the wane if the force of cultivated intelligence is diminished among the people. New-Hampshire and New-England are a power in the nation chiefly through the influence of ideas and educated intelligence. But it needs no prophet to tell how swiftly and surely that influence will disappear if we do not maintain and carry forward our schools and educational appliances with enlarged and liberal forethought. Our newer sister States are laying broad and generous educational foundations. They will distance us if we are not on the alert; much more if we stand still or go backwards.

As a pecuniary question simply, apart from the higher interests involved, we can not afford to have our schools languish. People will not willingly make their homes, or continue to reside, where educational facilities are wanting. Good schools add a handsome per cent to the value of every farm and every good business investment in a town. The place which affords only poor school privileges will be shunned by the more intelligent and valuable classes. No investments bring so sure, or in the end so large returns, as those which are made in good educational and religious foundations.

The burden of taxes now laid upon the country is very heavy, and to many difficult to support. But it is short-sighted policy to leave our schools to suffer, and the rising generation, the future hope of the nation, to grow up in comparative ignorance. Whatever else we can afford, we can not afford this. Wherever we try what economy and retrenchment can do for us, we must beware how we push them in this direction. Any investments we venture to make in the ignorance of those on whom the conduct of affairs and the control of the nation will soon devolve, will return to plague us hereafter, and work disaster if not ruin.

Another thing should be considered. It is wasteful to expend money on schools as short as most in Plymouth have been the past year. Other things being equal, a school of six weeks is not worth more than one-third as much as one of twelve. It takes time for teacher and pupils to get adjusted to one another and to their work. When this is accomplished and they are ready to make progress, a six weeks school has reached its end. If we can *not* secure longer terms in any other way, we shall be wise to have them less frequently. It would be better to have a school of good length once in two years, only, than to have a term of six or eight weeks every year.

No subject more imperatively demands the attention of the citizens of

Plymouth. Our best interests will be imperilled if we permit it to be overshadowed by other engrossing questions. It might be wise to petition the Legislature, and instruct our Representative in respect to the needed action. But we ought not to await the uncertain action of the Legislature. Towns have authority to make enlarged appropriations, and we should not delay or hesitate to do so.

When our schools secure the interest and regard to which they are entitled, we shall not leave them to such dreary and discreditable "local habitations" as most of them now occupy. We have scarcely a good school house in town. Two or three only approach that point, while six at least are entirely unfit for further use. They are known and read of all who pass them, dilapidated, uncouth, ill—though often abundantly—ventilated, and every way uncomfortable. The taste, the health, sometimes the decency of the children, are imperiled by them.

Much complaint is made, and often with justice, of the frequent and capricious changes of text books in the schools. To obviate this in a measure, the Legislature in 1863 passed an act (chap. 2721) as follows:

SECTION 1. All text books, now in use in any common or high school, shall continue in use in said schools for the term of three years from the passage of this act, and all which may hereafter be introduced shall continue in use for the term of three years from the time of their introduction, unless a town or city shall sooner vote to change the same, and during this time no other text book on the same subject shall be used.

SECTION 2. Any superintending committee, or other person violating the provisions of this act, shall forfeit ten dollars, for the use of schools in his or their town, upon conviction.

SECTION 3. Any legal voter may enter complaint of the violation of this act before a justice of the peace.

SECTION 4. Inconsistent acts repealed.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect only in such towns and cities as shall have adopted its provisions at a regular meeting, duly called for that purpose.

I recommend the adoption by the town of the provisions of this act.

For the information of the town, I add a list of the books now authorized to be used, and which will remain so for three years, unless changed by vote of the town, if the law be adopted:

Town's and Holbrook's Progressive Series of Readers, including Speller and Primer; Colton and Fitch's Geographies, including the American School Geography; Eaton's Series of Arithmetics, Primary, Intellectual, Common School and High School; Weld, Quackenbos and Kert's Grammars.

The only change which has been authorized this year is the addition

of Kert's Grammars to the list. It is proper that I should submit my reasons for this action and for leaving both Kert, "W. and Q.," to stand among the authorized books.

Our schools have needed a more elementary Grammar. The best teachers have felt this, and as there was none prescribed, I have found one and another making their way into different schools. In these circumstances I judged it my duty to establish some one book to use, and prevent the confusion to which we were tending. The examination of such books as were acceptable, left me in no doubt that Kert's Primary Grammar was a very clear, concise and excellent work, and far superior to any other. This judgment was strongly confirmed, by the opinion of the best teachers whom I consulted, and I have no doubt that its adoption in our schools will make the study much more inviting and profitable. It is sufficiently advanced for the wants of almost any pupils in the Plymouth Schools.

Kert's Higher Grammar has the same excellencies, and there is manifest advantage in having different books of a series adjusted to one another in use. Still, as Weld and Quackenbos' has been used but a short time, it did not seem advisable to displace it at once and entirely; but rather to leave the change to go gradually forward, as new classes are formed. My own opinion would favor an immediate change, and the securing the better book, as it is much better, at once. If the town choose to make it, I should heartily approve.

Respectfully submitted,

HENRY A. HAZEN, *Supt. School Committee.*

Plymouth, Feb. 19, 1866.

